

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1 ; rewrite claims ; and add claims 18- as follows:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

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Claim 13 (previously added): A hand mixer (1), comprising:

two mains terminals (10, 11) arranged for electrical connection to a source of electrical power,

tool connection means arranged for connection to mixing tools,

10 a motor (27) for driving said tool connection means, said motor being arranged to be energized from said source of electrical power, and being arranged to effect driving with at least two lower speeds and with a speed which is higher than the lower speeds,

a first switching handle (20) and a second switching handle (24),

15 a switching module (9) which includes speed switching means (60) for switching the speed of the motor (27) to different lower speed values, and start means (61) for starting the motor (27) at the higher speed, said speed switching means (60) being arranged for actuation by said first switching handle (20), said start means (61) being arranged for actuation by said second switching handle (24),

20 characterized in that the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) are connected mechanically and electrically to form a module (9), and all the electrical connections between the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) are realized on the module (9).

25 Claim 14 (currently amended): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 13, wherein said tool connection means is connected to selected ones of a plurality of mixing tools (28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35).

30 Claim 15 (previously added): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 13, further comprising interference suppression means (16) connected to the two mains terminals (10, 11) for the purpose of interference suppression, characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) are also

connected mechanically and electrically to the module (9).

Claim 16 (previously added): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 13, further comprising interference suppression means (16), characterized in that the interference suppression means (16) are also connected directly on the motor, and comprise a capacitor which can discharge via windings on the motor.

Claim 17 (previously added): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 13, wherein said source of electrical power is an a.c. mains, and said motor has more than three terminals for selective connection to electrical power to cause the motor to operate at different speeds.

Claim 18 (previously added): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that connecting leads (62, 63, 64, 65, 66) are fixedly connected to the module (9) and have free ends (67, 68, 69, 70, 71) arranged to be connected to respective ones of the motor terminals (72, 73, 74, 75, 76).

Claim 19 (previously added): A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the module (9) further comprises:

a supporting member (85) bounded by a bounding surface (86),  
electrically conductive contact strips (88, 89) connected to the supporting member (85) in the area of the bounding surface (86) and extending parallel to a strip direction (90),  
a first slider (102) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member (85) parallel to the strip direction (90) and which serves as a mating-contact holder and carries at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner, which cooperate with the contact strips (88, 89) and which together with the contact strips (88, 89) form the speed switching means (60),  
a second slider (116) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member (85) and which serves as switching actuator, and  
a switching contact (100) which is disposed in the path of movement of the second slider (116) and which forms part of the start means (61).

Claim 20 (previously added) A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the second slider (116) is also guided so as to be movable parallel to the strip direction (90).

5 Claim 21 (previously added) A hand-held mixer (1) as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are carried by the first slider (102), and which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner, are associated with a contact link (108, 109).

10 Claim 22 (currently amended): A switching module (~~130~~) (9) for a hand-held mixer (1) which has two mains terminals (10, 11) for connection to a source of electrical power, and has a motor (27) for driving mixing tools (28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35) and is adapted to effect driving with at least two lower speeds and with a speed which is higher than the lower speeds,

wherein the switching module (~~130~~) (9) comprises:

15 speed switching means (60) for switching the speed of the motor (27) to different lower speed values, and means for actuating the speed switching means (60) in response to a first mechanical input, and

start means (61) for starting the motor (27) at the higher speed in response to a second mechanical input,

20 characterized in that the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) as well as two mains terminals (10, 11) are connected mechanically and electrically in the module (9), and

all the electrical connections between the two mains terminals (10, 11) and the speed switching means (60) and the start means (61) are realized on the module (9).

25 Claim 23 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that interference suppression means (16) are also connected mechanically and electrically to, and realized on, the module (9).

Claim 24 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 22, wherein said source  
30 of electrical power is an a.c. mains, characterized in that the module comprises connecting leads

(62, 63, 64, 65, 66,) fixedly connected to the module (9) and having free ends (67, 68, 69, 70, 71) arranged for connection to respective motor terminals (72, 73, 74, 75, 76).

Claim 25 (currently amended): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 7 ~~22~~, characterized in  
5 that the module (9) further comprises:

- a supporting member (85) bounded by a bounding surface (86),
- electrically conductive contact strips (88, 89) connected to the supporting member (85) in the area of the bounding surface (86) and extending parallel to a strip direction (90),
- a first slider (102) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting member  
10 (85) parallel to the strip direction (90) and which serves as a mating-contact holder and carries at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner, which cooperate with the contact strips (88, 89) and which together with the contact strips (88, 89) form the speed switching means (60),
- a second slider (116) which is guided so as to be movable relative to the supporting  
15 member (85) and which serves as switching actuator, and
- a switching contact (100) which is disposed in the path of movement of the second slider (116) and which forms part of the start means (61).

Claim 26 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 25, characterized in  
20 that the second slider (116) is also guided so as to be movable parallel to the strip direction (90).

Claim 27 (previously added): A switching module (9) as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that at least two mating contacts (112, 113, 114, 115) which are carried by the first slider (102) and which are interconnected in an electrically conductive manner are associated with a contact link  
25 (108, 109).